

Morning Highlights

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Morning Highlights 2008-33

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Public Affairs, 356-5511

WILDLAND FIRE UPDATE

ALASKA

Sixteen new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center over the weekend. State and local firefighters responded to thirteen new fires that are now out or contained, one new, small fire is being monitored by Alaska Fire Service personnel, and two fires are staffed:

1. **Hutlitakwa Fire (approx. 15 miles W of Minto):** A passerby on the Elliot Highway called and reported the fire at Mile Post 120. Firefighting aircraft were dispatched, including a smokejumper aircraft, CL-215 water scooping air tankers, a retardant tanker and air attack. The fire was reported as three acres and very active, burning through black spruce. Two loads of fire retardant from Tanker 55 plus water from the CL-215s were dropped. Sixteen smokejumpers were deployed and remain on the fire. Last night the fire was reportedly 15 acres and still burning in black spruce and birch.
2. **Hughes Fire (approx. 3 ½ miles NE of Hughes):** A Hughes resident called in smoke as 3-4 miles upriver from the village. A fire aircraft reported the fire as 10 acres and completely active, burning in black spruce and tundra. Smokejumpers and firefighting aircraft responded and upon arrival found the fire had been knocked down by rain. The air tanker turned around and four smokejumpers deployed to staff the fire. They should be released from the fire this afternoon.

NATIONAL SITUATION

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, national fire activity was very busy over the weekend due to a dry lightning event that occurred in California. In the past two days, 1,080 new fires were reported in California, which now has 25 large fires going that have burned 90,000 acres. Evacuation orders are in effect for several fires. New large fires also started in Arizona, Nevada and Texas.

Due to Alaska's slow fire season, personnel are being sent to help support firefighting efforts in the Lower-48, including the Chena and Midnight Sun Hotshot Crews and other personnel to fill individual assignments.

SOLSTICE FESTIVITIES

Thanks to all who stopped by the interagency wildland fire booth at the Fairbanks Midnight Sun Festival Saturday. Warm temperatures made for a very pleasant celebration day in the Interior.

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Photo: One of the many interested visitors at Saturday's Midnight Sun Festival.

: BURN PERMIT INFORMATION

Burn permits are issued by the Alaska Division of Forestry. To obtain burn permits and information about permitted burn restrictions, please contact your local Division of Forestry office:

<i>Fairbanks Area:</i>	907-451-2626
<i>Delta Area:</i>	907-895-2106
<i>Tok Area:</i>	907-883-5134
<i>Mat-Su District:</i>	907-761-6312
<i>Kenai-Kodiak Area:</i>	907-260-4269
<i>Valdez/ Copper River Area:</i>	907-822-5536
<i>Northern Southeast Area (Skagway/ Haines):</i>	907-766-2120

For additional State of Alaska burn permit information, please visit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>

*In Anchorage, please contact the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation Office at 267-5020.

-Additional References on next page-

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers, Alaska Division of Forestry, and Doug Stockdale, Alaska Fire Service.

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